

## DEAR ERIC COLUMN - August

Dear Eric,

**Sometimes I feel this strong tension to put a stroke down on my painting of something that really isn't there versus to paint what is there. It is like my brain is split in half! Should I follow my intuition or go with what I know is really there?** *Carol from Michigan*



Carol,

I am glad you are feeling this tension- it is a healthy indication of growth, as uncomfortable as it is. It is a sign that your sense of design is calling out to be heard over what you see visually. After years of trying to understand this struggle- for many years I could not understand this struggle- I can assure you that letting your design sense win out, will in the end, not only create the best you have to offer, but the experience will also be more satisfying. The seeds of your uniqueness are birthing forth; don't squelch them! It will take some courage, though, as logic does not play an important role here- it is your intuition drawing upon years of experience taking over.

Unfortunately, many artists do not achieve this higher level of thought. Expectations of a realistic rendering by an unknowing market and uninformed friends, photographic influences, and a misplaced desire to be known can dampen such creative impulses. Learn to recognize the small, quiet voice that tells you to take a creative risk, as illogical as it may seem at the time. It is highly reliable, but it won't compete in the din.

Keep your brush wet!

Eric



*AWS Gold Medal of Honor Award*